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Title:

Press statement - Lock-Kimba Pipeline

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PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN).

5/10/71.

LOCK-KIMBA PIPELINE.

The Commonwealth Government has again revealed its lack of concern for the people of the Eyre Peninsula by rejecting the State Government's submissions on the Lock-Kimba pipeline, the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said today.

He said the State Government was deeply disappointed that the Commonwealth was not prepared to provide financial assistance for the project which would relieve the acute water shortage in the Kimba area and benefit farmers over an area of about 1,000 sq. miles. The Premier said he had written a further letter to the Prime Minister, following this latest refusal, urging him to reconsider the matter.

"Mr. McMahon, in his letter to me, said the Commonwealth judged it 'inappropriate to provide special assistance under the National Water Resources Development Programme to support an expansion of one area, at the same time as the Government is involved in measures to alleviate the economic problems of the industry generally'".

"This contention might be valid if the submission dealt with virgin land being opened for new settlers."

"But this is not the case".

Mr. Dunstan said his letter to Mr. McMahon stressed that the effect of the proposed pipeline would be to allow existing primary producers to achieve proper development of their holdings through a balanced diversification.

"This would enable these farmers to become more economically viable than at present, to the point where the necessity 'to alleviate economic problems of the industry' will be minimised or eliminated.

"If the Commonwealth continues its refusal to assist the people living in this area, the State Government will go ahead with the pipeline on its own.

"However, if its left up to the State alone, the pipeline will take about 20 years to complete instead of 6 or 7 years."

The Premier pointed out to the Prime Minister that the landowners concerned would, without the Commonwealth Grant, be tied to the costly and time consuming work of carting water from the few watering points available in County Buxton.

"The Lock-Kimba scheme would provide a reticulated water supply for a large area of farmland and the township of Kimba would have an assured water supply.

"The project is an urgent one and should be undertaken without delay", the Premier said.
